

**From:** John L Smitter  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/19/01 11:40am  
**Subject:** Dear Anti-Trust Division

Dear Anti-Trust Division

I thank you for coming to the agreement with Microsoft and allowing them to continue as the provider of "AFFORDABLE" software and systems that allow individuals like myself the benefit of email communication, powerful document production equal to Multi-Million Dollar companies and organizations, and a better way of life for the USA and world.

I have been associated as a user of computers and computer systems since the mid 1960's when the computer filled a 20 x 40 room, and required an army of specialized individuals to operate it, and the output was only available on reams and reams of paper. I have benefited most by the Microsoft developments and improvements through out the years.

I first began PC applications using a Spreadsheet program called VisiCalc, which was replaced by Lotus, a very significant improvement, but a much more significantly program called Excel was provided by Microsoft. Microsoft provided Excel to me at a very competitive price, and had broader compatibility and so many advantages over Lotus that it soon became the Spreadsheet of choice. The same situation is true with WordPerfect. I paid \$400.00 for WordPerfect as a word processing software, it was the best there was, until Microsoft provided Word for \$100.00 and the ease of use and quality of delivery put WordPerfect in the drawer.

I had opportunity to use Sun Micro Systems, Hewlet Packard 3000, IBM System 30, Novell PC Network, and Microsoft NT. Again, cost and ease of installation and use made Microsoft the one of choice. Each of the other named systems had a better opportunity to provide benefit to the consumer than Microsoft! They chose to keep costs high and less innovative than Microsoft! So for me, to go after Microsoft as the Justice Department did, hurt consumers and businesses much more than it helped.

Again, thank you for coming to this conclusion!

John L Smitter